

## REPORT ON NATIVE PAPERS

FOR

The Week ending the 19th May 1877.

THE *Bhārat Sangskārak*, of the 9th May, directs the attention of the Manager of the Calcutta and South-Eastern State Railway to the necessity of increasing the salaries of the native guards and station-masters employed in it. The remuneration they at present receive is very small; they cannot therefore be expected to remain content with it, and do their work satisfactorily.

BHARAT  
SANGSKARAK,  
May 7th, 1877.

2. Adverting to the subject of the proposed selection of text-books for the University of Calcutta, the same paper says that the Committee, appointed by Government for the purpose, ought to be held at Calcutta, that it might do its work to the satisfaction of everybody, by consulting the opinions of several educated and wise men of this country.

BHARAT  
SANGSKARAK.

3. The *Sahachar*, of the 7th May, writes, that if the British Government do not adopt any dishonest policy, the Manchester trade will doubtless be very soon out of the market of India. But the Marquis of Salisbury has thought fit to abolish duties on cloth; and this resolution has been approved of, both by Lord Lytton and Sir John Strachey. We have no great confidence in the policy of the latter. The speech he delivered, when the budget estimate was discussed, has surprised the whole country. He perhaps has thought that if, as a Finance Minister, he could destroy the rising trade of India, by abolishing the imposts at present levied on Manchester cloth, he would gain a seat in the House of Lords sooner than his rival Sir Richard Temple. We are obliged to say, though with great regret, that the British rulers have not, up to this time, been able to win the confidence of the people in connection with their system of revenue. They have fallen into so many errors, and have broken so many promises, that the people are now led to believe that they are naturally unable to do justice with regard to this matter. Is it not truly ridiculous to speak of free trade, in a country where the people have no voice in connection with its revenues? Are the Americans a foolish people, and has their Government done an act of unwisdom in imposing duties on cloth trade? The idea of free trade in this country ought to be rejected, until the people here are able to establish their superiority to the foreign traders.

SAHACHAR,  
May 7th, 1877.

4. The *Bishwa Suhrid*, of the 9th May, writes:—Owing to the most despotic and oppressive acts of some Englishmen in this country, the fair fame of England is now stained, and the present Government is also generally disliked. We had expected that on Her Majesty's assumption of the title of "Empress of India," a stop would be put to such acts; and besides, we had built many hopes on Lord Lytton and Mr. Eden, the present Lieutenant-Governor; but now we discover that these have all turned out

BISHWA SUHRID,  
May 9th, 1877.  
Circulation about 450.



vain and futile. The editor then goes on to enumerate several instances of oppression and injustice, which have been committed by Englishmen; and is surprised that they, being Christians, should have committed such acts.

HINDU RANJIKÁ,  
May 9th, 1877.

5. The *Hindu Ranjiká*, of the 9th May, observes that Lord Lytton, in not seeking to secure an alliance with the Ameer of Cabul, has, it would appear, determined to bring much evil upon the country and its inhabitants, and the English Government. The Russians have advanced as far as the borders of Cabul, and are endeavouring to make a union with the Ameer; and if he at this time, thinking the English his enemy, were to take the side of Russia, it would be very difficult to set him right again. Whatever may be the talents of Lord Lytton, as a man of learning, an author, or a poet, we cannot but say that he is not an able politician, and that he fails to perceive what constitutes the real good of India, since he has made an enemy of the Ameer of Cabul.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
May 10th, 1877.  
Circulation about 2,217.

6. In an editorial headed "The new Cesses," the *Amrita Bazar Patriká*, of the 10th May, writes that, instead of introducing the proposed new cesses and imposing them on the land (by which measure no doubt the permanent settlement is infringed upon), the Lieutenant-Governor might have been able to raise the money required by some other means; as for instance, by reviving the old income tax, by enhancing the duties on salt, or by increasing the rates of the license tax. Besides, a fresh and a great source of income might have been also found out, if the prayer of the Assamese, to include their province in that of Bengal, had been granted. But the Lieutenant-Governor has made up his mind to introduce the Public Work's cess; and thereby has also determined to lay the foundation of much evil to the country.

SAMAJ DARPAÑ,  
May 11th, 1877.  
Circulation about 460.

7. The *Samáj Darpan*, of the 11th May, writes the following:—The Lieutenant-Governor has said, that the arguments, raised by the British Indian Association against the proposed cesses, are not new. They were once made and refuted, when the road cess was introduced. But we ask, what does it matter whether the arguments be old or new? If any injustice or oppression prevails, it must be checked by any means whatsoever. His Honor has also asserted, that he has no power to say anything on a matter after it has been decided by the Secretary of State. This assertion is doubtless very true. But the Secretary of State lives at a great distance. He resides in England; and consequently if he is to know anything about India, he must be informed by the Lieutenant-Governor, or by some such men. In such cases, therefore, if they distinctly explain to him that the people of this country have at present fallen into a most wretched condition, owing to various causes, he surely would sympathize with them and desist from imposing on them any fresh taxes. The Lieutenant-Governor has, moreover, said that the British Indian Association have not done well in charging the Government with breach of trust. This is indeed very true. But on mature consideration it appears to us, that the Government is no longer willing to preserve the trust which the people have hitherto reposed in it. When the permanent settlement was made, Lord Cornwallis distinctly told the zemindars that no other burden should be imposed on the land than its fixed rents. The zemindars were, moreover, not bound by that settlement to provide for the excavation of canals, or for the construction of embankments; to preserve the crops from being destroyed. But if, at present, they be forced to make such provisions, how can the trust reposed in the Government be secured?



8. A correspondent writing to the *Education Gazette*, of the 11th May, complains of the very small salary awarded to the pundits of the vernacular schools, and prays that the authorities of the Education Department would attend to the matter. The pay which the pundits at present receive is so small, that it can hardly supply them and their families with necessary food and clothing.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,  
May 11th, 1877.  
Circulation about 1,168.

9. With regard to the proposed selection of text-books for the University of Calcutta, the *Moorshedábád Patriká*, of the 11th May, requests that the committee, appointed by the Government for the purpose, should make an effort to encourage the study of Sanscrit in the University, and especially in the Sanscrit College, where at present the prosecution of the study has almost become a sham. The Committee should also seek to introduce the study of anatomy (which is hitherto confined only to the Medical College) into all the colleges and schools affiliated to the University. The present system of examination should also undergo material alterations. The examiners ought not to be chosen only from the professors of colleges. It would not be difficult to find competent men unconnected with educational institutions. The students should also be permitted to make their own choice of those branches of knowledge or science which are most suited to their tastes. Mr. Lethbridge's two histories selected for the Entrance Examination should be taken off the list. With regard to the selection of text-books, the opinions of such men as Pundit Ishwara Chundra Vidyáságar, Raja Digambar Mittra, Dr. Rájendra Lál Mittra, and Baboo Bhúdev Mukerji should be consulted. In conclusion, the editor says that, Lord Lytton, in having directed his attention to the subject, has shown the interest he takes in the future good of the inhabitants of this country.

MOORSHEDABAD  
PATRIKA,  
May 11th, 1877.

10. The *Moorshedábád Pratinidhi*, of the 11th May, says that if the imposition of a new cess on the land has been determined upon, it would be better if it were collected directly by the Government, and not through the zemindars; because the latter are sometimes obliged to pay taxes to the Government from their own pockets, owing to their being unable to realize them from their tenants.

MOORSHEDABAD  
PRATINIDHI,  
May 11th, 1877.

11. With reference to Act VII of 1876, to provide for the registration of revenue-paying and revenue-free lands, and of the proprietors and managers thereof, the *Hindu Hitaishini*, of the 12th May, writes:—It is true that the Government, by having recently brought this Act into operation, is deriving a large profit from it, but it has also kindled a flame of internal discord amongst the zemindars. Disputes arise from the fact that, by the registration of names, the divisions of property and the rights thereof are exactly ascertained. Besides that, by the operation of this Act, a large number of people sustain heavy losses and suffer great inconvenience. Many have also become involved in debt. It has been ruled that brick-built houses in Calcutta should also be registered according to this Act; but we cannot comprehend the necessity of this measure, because these houses have already been registered by the local municipality. The measure would serve only to break the peace of many families and to give them unnecessary trouble. The Government generally acts in this way, and disregards the comfort or the inconveniences of its subjects. This is nothing short of despotism.

HINDU HITAIISHINI,  
May 12th, 1877.  
Circulation about 300.

12. The *Dacca Prakásh*, of the 13th May, writes:—Owing to the great inconvenience and trouble experienced by the zemindars in realizing arrears of rent from their tenants, the Lieutenant-Governor has represented

DACCA PRAKASH,  
May 13th, 1877.  
Circulation about 300.



to the Government of India the necessity of enacting a law for the realization of such arrears by summary trials. He has also said that, if a power of selling the rights in their holdings were conferred on the tenants, these arrears might be most easily realized. We fully assent to His Honor's first proposition; but we cannot concur in the opinion he has expressed on the second point; because, if the powers spoken of were conferred on them, there would be but little difference (if any) between those of the zemindar and the tenant. In fact, the zemindar would thereby be deprived of his right and power. In conclusion, we only beg to say that some provision should be made for giving a decree to the zemindar, entitling him, in a suit for arrears, to deprive the ryot of his right in his holding, and to let the land to another person. By this means only the arrears of rent might be most easily realized.

SOMA PRAKASH,  
May 14th, 1877.  
Circulation about 700.

13. In its opening editorial, headed "The despotic acts of our Rulers," the *Soma Prakāsh*, of the 14th May, makes the following observations:—The Lieutenant-Governor having passed the Bill for the imposition of the Public Work's cess, and thereby demolished the permanent settlement, has gone to Darjeeling to breathe its cool air. But the fire, His Honor has kindled in the minds of the zemindars of Bengal, cannot be soon extinguished. This act on his part has much astonished us. Call it by whatever name we please, it is a fact, and most easily comprehended, that the permanent settlement is violated, whenever any new tax is imposed on the land beyond its fixed rents. What does the permanent settlement mean? When Lord Cornwallis made it, he must have told the landholders that the rents fixed on their lands should never be enhanced. If His Excellency had not entered into such a compact, the landholders would never have bound themselves to pay the Government revenues from their own pockets, in case of their failing to realize their rents from the ryots. We ask those persons who are hostile to the permanent settlement to see whether this argument is reasonable or not. It is an infringement of this settlement, if but a single pice be demanded from the land, beyond the rents fixed on it at the time when the permanent settlement was made. The despotism of our rulers is exhibited, not only by this act, but also by the arguments shown for the enhancement of the road cess, and by the objects and reasons stated in the Bill in connection with it. While, on the one hand, it states that the introduction of a Public Work's cess has become necessary for the construction of railways and the excavation of canals, on the other, it also states that by this new cess only the improvement of the land would be secured; and hence the imposition becomes reasonable. Since Mr. Eden renders the land liable for the protection of railways, we wish to ask His Honor whether railways were constructed with a view only to the improvement of the land. They were in fact constructed for the convenience of trade only; but the new cess, instead of being imposed on articles of trade, is laid upon the land. This is indeed no common act of despotism. If we are to acknowledge that the land derives advantage from the construction of railways, we cannot but say that that advantage is very small and remote; and for this reason it is not at all just to impose any new tax on that ground. The opinions we had so long entertained about Mr. Eden have undergone a perfect change. It has now become doubtful whether there exists a second person so arbitrary as His Honor, amongst our rulers.

SOMA PRAKASH.

14. A correspondent writing to the same paper notices the following grievances of the native officers employed in the Telegraph Department of



the East Indian Railway, and prays that the Agent and the Traffic Manager should direct their attention to redress them :—

- (1.) In large stations, there are rooms appropriated for the use of Station-masters and signallers; but the latter cannot make use of them, although a deduction is made from their salaries to pay the house rent.
- (2.) No extra allowance is granted to the signallers, although they be required to work longer than the usual hours.
- (3.) Although there is a circular to the effect, that one month's leave of absence should be granted to every officer in a year, it is strange that only a leave of fourteen days is granted. In the Telegraph Department, however, even this short leave is granted after eighteen months, and that again is not enjoyed by anybody in the course of three or four years.
- (4.) There is no prospect of an increase of pay held out to them.
- (5.) When a reduction of expenditure becomes necessary, the Telegraph officers only are dismissed.
- (6.) If the officers in the Traffic Department are able to produce medical certificates, they are allowed 15 days' leave on full pay, but unfortunately this is not allowed to the officers in the Telegraph Department; for if they be absent from their duties only for two days owing to sickness, half of their pay is deducted, even though they produce medical certificates.
- (7.) While, in other departments, an allowance is granted to an officer who acts for another during his absence, no such provision is made for an acting officer in the Telegraph Department.
- (8.) The Company has made a rule that the doctors under its pay should attend its European and Eurasian servants and also their families; but with regard to native officers, the doctors might treat them only, but not their families. This is indeed very unjust.

15. A correspondent of the *Sambád Bhaskar*, of the 14th May, directs the attention of the Health Officer of Calcutta to the nuisance caused by the heaps of dung, and other noxious and filthy matter, deposited in various parts of the town. The writer prays the Health Officer personally to visit the places, where such nuisances exist; and adopt measures to cause their removal as soon as practicable; for they occasion great injury.

SAMBAD BHASKAR,  
May 14th, 1877.

16. With reference to the Irrigation Bill proposed to be introduced by Mr. Eden, the editor of the *Akhbár-ul-Akhiár* observes, that this Act will imply tyranny on the part of the present Lieutenant-Governor, if he compels ryots to pay the cess for land in which water from the projected canals is not used.

AKHBAR-UL-AKHIAR,  
May 1st, 1877.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 19th May 1877.

JOHN ROBINSON,

Government Bengali Translator.



*List of Native Newspapers received and examined for the week ending  
the 19th May 1877.*

No.	Name.	Place of publication.	Monthly, weekly, or otherwise.	Date.
1	"Bhārat Shramjībī" ...	Barāhanagar ...	Monthly ...	Bysāk 1284 B.S.
2	"Arunodaya Sambād" ...	Sibsāgar ...	Ditto ...	April 1877.
3	"Rungpore Dik Prakāsh" ...	Kākiniā Rungpore ...	Weekly ...	29th March and 5th April 1877.
4	"Bhārat Sangskārak" ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	7th May 1877.
5	"Sahachar" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	7th ditto.
6	"Bishwa Suhrid" ...	Mymensingh ...	Ditto ...	9th ditto.
7	"Hindu Ranjikā" ...	Beauleah, Rājshāhye ...	Ditto ...	9th ditto.
8	"Amrita Bāzār Patrikā" ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	10th ditto.
9	"Samāj Darpan" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	11th ditto.
10	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly ...	Ditto ...	11th ditto.
11	"Moorshedabad Patrikā" ...	Berhampore ...	Ditto ...	11th ditto.
12	"Moorshedabad Pratinidhi" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	11th ditto.
13	"Pratikār" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	11th ditto.
14	"Hindu Hitoishinī" ...	Dacca ...	Ditto ...	12th ditto.
15	"Grāmbārtā Prakāshikā" ...	Comercolly ...	Ditto ...	12th ditto.
16	"Sulabha Samāchār" ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	12th ditto.
17	"Sādhārānī" ...	Chinsurah ...	Ditto ...	13th ditto.
18	"Dacca Prakāsh" ...	Dacca ...	Ditto ...	13th ditto.
19	"Howrah Hitakarī" ...	Bethar, Howrah ...	Ditto ...	13th ditto.
20	"Soma Prakāsh" ...	Bhowanipore ...	Ditto ...	14th ditto.
21	"Sambād Bhāskar" ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	14th ditto.
22	"Samāchār Chandrikā" ...	Ditto ...	Daily ...	12th and 14th to 17th May 1877.
23	"Sambād Pūrnachandrodaya" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	11th to 18th May 1877.
24	"Bangabidhya Prakāshikā" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	8th to 11th and 14th and 15th May 1877.
25	"Akhār-ul-akhīr" (in Urdu) ...	Mozufferpore ...	Bi-monthly ...	1st May 1877.
26	"Jām-Jahān-numā" (in Persian.) ...	Calcutta ...	Weekly ...	11th and 18th May 1877.
27	"U du Guide" (in Urdu) ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	12th May 1877.
28	"Behār Bandhu" (in Hindi) ...	Bankipore, Patna ...	Ditto ...	16th ditto.

Bengal Secretariat Press.